

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 ARA-10 NEA-07 EA-13 IO-03

EUR-10 AF-04 DEAE-00 HEW-01 TRSE-00 L-02 AGR-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

AID-10 SCI-03 IGA-01 JUSE-00 SY-10 /106 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:HRWELLMAN:RHMUNN; OMB/FDM:LHERMAN:TPETERS:

APPROVED BY S/NM:WJHANDLEY

USREP:AMB. S.B.VANCE

ARA/LA:PSHANKLE

NEA/INS:AMB. MOYNIHAN

NEA/INS:BLAINGEN

EA/RA:MHENDERSON

IO/HDC:LCAVANAUGH

EUR:JREND AHL

NEA/RA:TGRANT SAODAP:RDUPONT

DEA:JCUSACJ L/T:CBEVANS

HEW:JRODRIQUES NEA/TUR:RDILLON

TREASURY:MBACH AF/RA:JWALKER

HEW:REGE BERG AGRICULTURE:QJONES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: US VIEWS ON ITEM 9 OK CND AGENDA: SUPPLY OF
OPIATES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

SUMMARY: AT FORTHCOMING MEETING OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC

DRUGS, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 18 AT GENEVA, US
WILL DRAW ATTENTION TO NEW EMPHASIS IN US OPIUM POLICY
BASED ON RECENT PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS. ESSENCE OF
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DECISIONS IS THAT (A) US WILL RELEASE LIMITED AMOUNTS OF
OPIATES FROM OUR STOCKPILE IF AND WHEN NECESSARY TO
MAINTAIN INVENTORIES OF US PROCESSORS AT SAFE LEVEL;
(B) US WILL ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE AND SEEK CONSENSUS ON
SHIFTING FROM USE OF GUM OPIUM TO MECHANICAL PROCESSING
OF UNINCISED POPPY STRAW AS SOURCE OF OPIATES; AND
(C) US WILL NOW BRING US GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES TO
BEAR IN RESEARCH AND TESTING OF POPPY STRAW PROCESSING

IN BELIEF IT CAN BRING HIGHER YIELDS AND WILL BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROLS THAN UNDER CURRENT PRACTICES. DECISION EMBRACES ONLY TESTING AND RESEARCH, NOT REPEAT NOT PRODUCTION TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS. TO INSURE CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF OUR INTENTIONS, DECISIONS SHOULD BE PRESENTED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR ANALYSIS OF WORLD SITUATION AND REACTION TO IT AS OUTLINED BELOW.

1. ALL ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO OUTLINE OUR VIEWS TO HOST GOVERNMENTS, DRAWING ON PARAGRAPHS 1 THROUGH 4. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED CERTAIN POSTS IN CAPTIONED PARAGRAPHS BELOW. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT US VIEWS ON THIS ITEM ARE CONSISTENT WITH OBJECTIVES WHICH THE US HAS ENUNCIATED AND ALL COUNTRIES HAVE ACCEPTED AT PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. THE US AIM IN MAKING CERTAIN ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THE SUPPLY AND CONTROL PROBLEMS IS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE NEED TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL USE DURING THE NEXT TEN YEARS OR SO WITHOUT WEAKENING THE CONTROLS OVER LICIT PRODUCTION OR THE COMMITMENT TO ERADICATE ILLEGAL UNCONTROLLED PRODUCTION. FYI: WE MAY WISH CIRCULATE SOME FORM DRAFT RESOLUTION GIVING VOICE O THESE VIEWS IF SUFFICIENT SUPPORT SEEMS AVAILABLE. REPORT REACTIONS SOONEST. DURING COURSE OF CND MEETING YOU MAY RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL APPROACHES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. END FYI.

2. THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE US POSITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. US RECOGNIZES EXISTING AND POTENTIALLY INCREASING GAP BETWEEN GROWING WORLDWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICINAL OPIATES AND LICIT PRODUCTION. BASED UPON CURRENT DEMAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROJECTIONS, WE WOULD EXPECT THIS GAP TO BECOME INCREASINGLY SERIOUS. THERE WAS A NOTABLE SHORTFALL IN 1973. US PROCESSORS, FO EXAMPLE, WERE NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN A SUPPLY SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN INVENTORIES AT A SAFE LEVEL (YEAR-END DOMESTIC INVENTORIES FELL TO NINETY DAYS, AN ALL-TIME LOW.)

B. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS COMMITTED TO ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF NATURAL OPIATES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES UNTIL NONADDICTIVE OR LESS ADDICTIVE SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES CAN BE DEVELOPED.

C. DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL RESEARCH AND PROGRESS, SYNTHETICS SUITABLE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICINAL USE ARE NOT NOW AVAILABLE. US EXPERIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL

OPINION STATED AT 25TH CND (1973) SUGGEST THAT SUBSTITUTION OF SYNTHETICS SUITABLE FOR ADOPTION AND MEDICAL PRACTICE IS NOT PRACTICABLE NOW. THE CONSENSUS IS THAT THE CHANGE WILL TAKE AT LEAST A DECADE TO ACCOMPLISH. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW DRUGS, CHANGE IN PRESCRIPTION PRACTICES OF PHYSICIANS, CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES ARE FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED AND AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESOLVED BEFORE A LARGE SCALE SUBSTITUTION FOR NATURAL OPIATES BECOMES A PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY.

D. MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OPIATES MUST BE MET WITHIN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SYSTEM UNDER TREATIES DESIGNED TO PREVENT DIVERSION FROM LEGAL PRODUCTION AND TO ELIMINATE UNCONTROLLED ILLEGAL PRODUCTION. THERE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DETERMINED BY INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD ON THE BASIS OF ESTIMATES BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE AMOUNTS NEEDED FOR CONSUMPTION AND REBUILDING OF STOCKS.

E. INCISION OF THE POPPY FOR GUM OPIUM IS A PROCESS DIFFICULT TO CONTROL TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF GUM OPIUM AND ITS DERIVATIVES INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS. PRODUCTION OF GUM OPIUM FOR EXPORT FOR MEDICAL USE SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED TO NEW AREAS NOR TO NEW COUNTRIES, BUT RATHER INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURAL OPIATES SHOULD BE MET IN TWO WAYS: FIRST, BY FULLY UTILIZING STRAW CURRENTLY AVAILABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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